

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 19711 021922Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 021804Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1565

UNCLAS ROME 19711

FOR EUR/EX AND L

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP

SUBJECT: ACCIDENT INVOLVING POV OF SCIENCE COUNSELOR JOHN B.
L. MANNIELLO

1. ON DECEMBER 29, 1974, AT 0100 HOURS, SCIENCE COUNSELOR JOHN B.L. MANNIELLO WHILE DRIVING HIS PRIVATELY OWNED AUTOMOBILE COLLIDED WITH A LOCAL TAXICAB AT AN INTERSECTION WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ROME.

2. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE A) THE TAXICAB WAS TRAVELING AT AN EXCESSIVE SPEED AND B) MR. MANNIELLO FAILED TO OBSERVE A STOP SIGN. BOTH VEHICLES SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE. AN ITALIAN LAWYER AND HIS WIFE WHO WERE PASSENGERS IN THE TAXICAB WERE INJURED.

3. ON NOVEMBER 11, 1976, A WRIT OF SUMMONS, ISSUED ON OCTOBER 30, 1976, WAS SERVED ON MR. MANNIELLO THAT REQUIRES HIM TO APPEAR IN AN ITALIAN COURT FOR A HEARING ON DECEMBER 15, 1976. THE HEARING WILL BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF MR. MANNIELLO'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES MADE BY THE ITALIAN LAWYER AND HIS WIFE, INASMUCH AS THE INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH HAD UNDERWRITTEN MR. MANNIELLO'S LIABILITY INSURANCE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT RECENTLY WENT BANKRUPT.

4. WE HAVE FORWARDED THE SUMMONS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, ASKING THEM TO INFORM THE COURT THAT MR. MANNIELLO'S DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO APPEAR AT THE DECEMBER 15

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HEARING. IT HAS BEEN SEGGESTED TO US THAT MR. MANNIELLO MIGHT

EMPLOY LEGAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT HIM AT THE HEARING.
WE BELIEVE SUCH ACTION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS AN APPEARANCE BEFORE
THE COURT AND THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO SEND AN OBSERVER
INSTEAD.

5. YOUR EARLY GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED.VOLPE

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